GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2178
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2003
CONFERENCE ON PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
RAVI PRAKASH VERMA;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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(a) whether a conference of the Ministers of State incharge of PRIs was held in July 2001 for implementation of provisions relating to Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, whether these provisions have been implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the extent to which the implementation of these provisions have strengthened the Panchayati Raj System in the country;

(e) the name of the States that have devolved powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutes so far;

(f) whether the Government propose to bring forward any legislation to provide powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions alongwith the local bodies;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the District Planning Committees have been set up in all the States/UTs;

(i) if not, the States/UTs where such Committees are yet to be set up; and

(j) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) Yes Sir. A Conference of the State Ministers of Panchayati Raj was held on 11th July, 2001 to review the progress of implementation of the provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992.

(b)&(c) The States & UTs have implemented the provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 in varying degrees. Elections have been held in all the States/Union Territories except Jharkhand and Pondicherry, State Election Commissions have been set up in all the States/Union Territories except Jharkhand. State Finance Commissions have been set up in all the States/Union Territories except Arunachal Pradesh and Jharkhand. District Planning Committees have been constituted in all the States/Union Territoies except Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Chandigarh and Pondicherry and all the States have amended the State Acts to bring them in conformity with the provisions of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas)Act, 1996 etc.

(d)&(e) On account of the implementation of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, about 30 lakh elected Panchayat representatives are in place, of which about 10 lakh are women and about 6 lakh are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A State and Union Territories-wise statement indicating devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions is given in Annexure-I.

(f)&(g) Article 243-G of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, provides that the Legislatures of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein. Based on the experience of the past, the issue of a further amendment is under examination.

(h)& (i) While some States and Union Territories have constituted the District Planning Committees, the others are yet to constitute the same. A statement indicating State and Union Territory-wise constitution of the District Planning Committees is given in Annexure-II.

(j) The Union Government is constantly persuading the States and Union Territories through correspondence and meetings at the level of Ministers and Secretaries as also through inter-action by holding workshops and conferences for expeditious implementation of the provisions of the Constitution.